

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
March 17, 2011

Acting First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. in Room 206 at Town Hall.

Present were Acting First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; Board of Education Vice Chairman, Betsy Hagerty Ross; Board of Finance Vice Chairman, Martha Banks; State Representative, Terrie Wood; RTM Moderator, Karen Armour and Town Administrator, Karl Kilduff.

Board of Education

Ms. Hagerty Ross stated that the Board of Education will be conducting its annual tour of Darien Schools for the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance on March 26th. Additionally, she confirmed that the BoE will be requesting early approval of funding from the RTM for the work to be done on the Middlesex Middle School gymnasium floor. Finally, she noted that the BoE is continuing to work on the budget deficit.

Board of Finance

Ms. Banks noted that much work has been done on the Town's budget. There was some discussion of the few areas where further reductions are being considered: Mr. Steeger, Director of Public Works, may need less money to complete an engineering study than was originally anticipated, the number and type of new vehicles being purchased by the Police Department and the funding to study the Hoyt St. sidewalk proposal. With regards to the Hoyt St. sidewalk, Ms. Stevenson stated that she and others on the sidewalk committee will try to complete a survey of residents in that area to establish an understanding of the need/desire for a sidewalk before the Board of Finance votes on the expenditure in April.

State Representative

Ms. Wood acknowledged that any changes to the Affordable Housing will require a bipartisan push. She is working with members from both parties to tweak the bill so its negative impacts on CT communities will be reduced or eliminated. The goal is to recognize when communities have made good faith efforts to increase affordable housing stock rather than setting arbitrary percentage requirements. The Town Attorney, Mr. Wayne Fox, is presently working on the wording of the proposed bill changes.

In an effort to promote the Teach for America project Ms. Wood will volunteer to teach an hour long class in a Bridgeport school. The Teach for America project recruits college students to commit to two years of teaching in an inner city school after graduation.

Finally, Ms. Wood was proud to announce that Emily Close, a Darien High School student on Post 53, recently testified to promote a bill requiring vehicles to remain at least 100 feet behind ambulances. Ms Close's articulate testimony was quite impressive.

RTM Representative

Ms. Armour stated that she had attended the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting on March 16, 2011 during which the leash law was being discussed. She filled the group in on the options being considered by the Parks & Recreation Commission. The leash law has been moved from March to the September RTM meeting for consideration.

Ms. Armour conveyed that at the next RTM meeting on March 21, 2011 the First Selectman will make a presentation on the realignment project before the RTM votes on funding for architectural costs. Another item on the agenda for that evening is a presentation by TSG&A on the Town Charter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:47 a.m.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 8:00 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary